

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-70 are pending in this application. Claims 1-18, 20-32, 35-42, 45-48 and 50-68 are amended. Claims 1-18, 20-32, 35-42, 45-48 and 50-68 are amended to correct minor informalities, to clarify subject matter recited, and to better comply with U.S. claim drafting practice. Applicants submit that no new matter is introduced.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 7, 8, 14, 15, 42, 46 and 65 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c). Accordingly, the claims have been amended to remove any improper multiple dependency. Applicants therefore request reconsideration of the outstanding objection to Claims 7, 8, 14, 15, 42, 46 and 65.

Claims 1-6, 9-13, 16-41, 43-45, 47-64 and 66-70 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Tanaka (U.S. Patent No. 6,588,012). Applicants respectfully traverse that rejection by the present amendment.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an information transmission system and amended to now recite as follows:

at least one information output apparatus configured to output an information signal, including
an output terminal configured to output *only the information signal*,
a related information sending unit configured to send at least *specific information* of the at least one information output apparatus, and
an information-for-identification superimposing unit configured *to superimpose information for identification onto the information signal* to be output from the output terminal;
and

an information input apparatus configured to accept the information signal from the at least one information output apparatus, including

plural input terminals configured to accept ***only information signals***,
a specific information accepting unit configured to accept the specific information,
a switching unit configured to switch among the plural input terminals,
an information-for-identification detecting unit configured ***to detect the information for identification superimposed on one of the information signals that are accepted by a respective one of the plural input terminals***, and
to cause the switching unit to switch among the plural input terminals, and
an identifying unit configured ***to identify the respective one of the plural input terminals, which accepted the information for identification detected, as an input terminal for the information signal*** sent from the at least one information output apparatus that sent the specific information via the related information sending unit.

In a conventional information transmission system, for example, time and labor are required to correctly match each of plural analog input terminals (i.e., terminals that receive only information signals) of an information input apparatus with a respective analog output terminal of an information output apparatus. Thus, each of analog input terminals of the information input apparatus may not be properly connected to the respective analog output terminal of the information output apparatus.¹

According to the present invention recited in Claim 1, an information transmission system is capable of identifying a connection relationship of output and input apparatuses, using an output terminal sending only an information signal and an input terminal receiving only an information signal.

More particularly, referring to the non-limiting embodiment of the information output apparatus (e.g. the integrated receiver decoder (1), herein "IRD (1)") shown in Fig. 2, the information for identification is generated by an identification message generation section (15), and then supplied to a superimposition section (14) to superimpose the information for identification onto the information signal (e.g., an analog video signal). One example of such

¹ See the present application at page 4, line 15 to page 5, line 13, for example.

information for indication is a display message indicating "This image is being output from the IRD. When this message is displayed, please push the decision button switch of the IRD." The information for identification is then output from the output terminal which outputs only the information signal (e.g., one of the analog output terminals (1ot1) or (1ot2)).²

Subsequently, referring to the non-limiting embodiment of the information input apparatus (e.g., the monitor receiver (2)) shown in Fig. 3, the information-for-identification detecting unit (e.g., the control section (50)) detects the information for identification received via one of the input terminals accepting only the information signal (e.g., one of the analog input terminals (2in1), (2in2) and (2in3)); and causes the switching unit (e.g., the selector (25)) to switch among the input terminals. Then, the identifying unit (e.g., the control section (50)) identifies the one of the input terminals, which accepted the information for identification detected, as an input terminal for the information signal sent from the information output apparatus that sent the specific information via the related information sending unit.³

The Office Action asserts that Tanaka discloses all of the limitations recited in Claim 1. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Tanaka fails to disclose all of the limitations recited in Claim 1 as currently written.

Initially, Applicants note that the invention in Tanaka is directed to a multi-media research tool involving subject matter different from the present invention recited in Claim 1 which is directed to an information transmission system capable of identifying a connection relationship of output and input apparatuses. More specifically, Tanaka is directed to a combination terminal unit, which "permits a user to access desired information by performing a retrieval operation without considering the location of the information."⁴ Tanaka describes that the information is to be searched in and retrieved from such media as on-air TV, CATV

² See the present specification at page 32, lines 4-17.

³ See the present specification at page 37, line 4 through page 40, line 2.

⁴ See Tanaka at column 2, lines 65-68.

(cable television) and radio broadcasting, and TV phone, voice phone, FAX, PC and Internet communications; and that an example information to be retrieved is "NARA TOURIST INFORMATION."⁵ Nowhere does Tanaka describe how to identify a connection relationship of output and input apparatuses.

Specifically, the Office Action asserts that Tanaka discloses at column 9, lines 7-12 the information-for-identification superimposing unit recited in Claim 1. However, features Tanaka describes at that paragraph are that the user inputs key words for the "RETRIEVAL ITEM" (e.g., "NARA TOURIST INFORMATION") to retrieve desired information using inputting devices (e.g., a keyboard and a touch panel), and selects a medium for further search among media indicated as including the desired information; and that line connection means (e.g., a modem) connects the combination terminal unit to the medium (e.g., the Internet) selected by the user thereby letting the user retrieve the desired information.⁶ Nowhere does Tanaka disclose that at least one information output apparatus includes an information-for-identification superimposing unit configured *to superimpose information for identification onto the information signal* to be output from the output terminal, as recited in Claim 1, so as to be recognized by a user when received at the information input apparatus to identify a connection relationship of the output and input apparatuses.

The Office Action further asserts that Tanaka discloses at column 8, lines 28-31 the information-for-identification detecting unit recited in Claim 1. However, what Tanaka describes at that paragraph is that CPU 2-1 in Fig. 1 controls the search and retrieve program described throughout Tanaka; and that a ROM 2-24 of CPU 2-1 stores such program. Nowhere does Tanaka disclose that an information input apparatus includes an information-for-identification detecting unit configured *to detect the information for identification superimposed on one of the information signals that are accepted by a respective one of the*

⁵ See Tanaka at column 3, lines 9-13, and lines 41-44.

⁶ See also Tanaka at column 2, line 62 through column 4, line 44, and column 8, line 28 through column 9, line 48.

plural input terminals, and causes the switching unit to switch among the plural input terminals, as recited in Claim 1.

Moreover, the Office Action asserts that Tanaka discloses at column 4, lines 9-44 the identifying unit recited in Claim 1. Nevertheless, what Tanaka describes at that paragraph is that the unit searches a location of the “RETRIEVAL ITEM” and indicates the location of the “RETRIEVAL ITEM” as the “ACCESS INFORMATION.” Tanaka lists, as examples of the access information, such information resources as Internet home page information, Fax transmission service information, TV program information, CATV program information and personal computer communications service information. Nowhere does Tanaka disclose that an information input apparatus includes an identifying unit configured ***to identify the respective one of the plural input terminals, which accepted the information for identification detected, as an input terminal for the information signal*** sent from the at least one information output apparatus that sent the specific information via the related information sending unit, as recited in Claim 1.

Furthermore, in this last regard, Tanaka describes at lines 14-21 as follows:

The line connecting means preferably includes physical interfaces for connection to the plurality of media. For example, the line connecting means includes antenna terminals for receiving on-air TV broadcast and radio broadcast, a modular terminal for connection to a subscriber telephone line for voice telephone and FAX communications, and a terminal for connection to an ISDN line for TV phone and Internet communications.

The line connecting means functions as a modem and a terminal adapter for implementing data transmission procedures and as tuners for receiving TV, radio and CATV broadcasts.

Thus, in Tanaka, each device is connected to a dedicated physical interface of the line connection means. Accordingly, Tanaka does not describe any identifying unit that identifies the respective input terminal, which accepted the information for identification detected, as the input terminal for the information signal sent from the information output apparatus that

sent the specific information via the related information sending unit, as in the present invention recited in amended Claim 1.

In light of the foregoing discussions, Tanaka is not believed to anticipate the specific features recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1.

Independent Claims 20-23 and Claims 24-34 dependent therefrom are considered allowable at least for the reasons advanced for Claim 1 to the extent that the claims include the information output apparatus having features substantially similar to the information-for-identification superimposing unit recited in Claim 1.

Independent Claims 35-38 and Claims 39-49 dependent therefrom are considered allowable at least for the reasons advanced for Claim 1 to the extent that the claims include the information input apparatus having features substantially similar to the information-for-identification detecting unit and the identifying unit recited in Claim 1.

Independent Claims 50-57 and Claims 58-70 dependent therefrom are considered allowable at least for the reasons advanced for Claim 1 to the extent that the claims include features substantially similar to those recited in Claim 1.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for formal allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.


Respectfully submitted,

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